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Turner approval likely today

From Wire Services

WASHINGTON — President Carter's second nominee for CIA director said yesterday he would never allow the assassination of a foreign head of state by the agency in peacetime and would resign if a President ordered him to carry out illegal activities.

Adm. Stansfield Turner made his statements in completing his testimony before the Senate intelligence committee. He was virtually assured of being confirmed in the CIA post when the committee votes today.

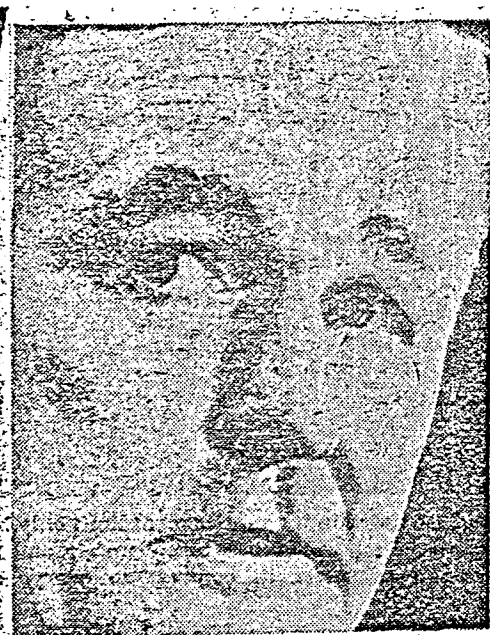
Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) told the 53-year-old Navy officer, who commands NATO forces in southern Europe: "I don't see any problems. If you have an assignment in Naples tonight, go ahead. I think you can feel confident of being confirmed."

Turner's reception by the committee was in sharp contrast to the treatment accorded Carter's first candidate to head the intelligence agency. Theodore C. Sorensen was forced to withdraw last month after some senators opposed him on grounds he had mishandled classified material while serving as a senior aide in President John F. Kennedy's administration.

The subject of secret CIA plots to assassinate foreign leaders was raised by Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.), who asked Turner whether he could visualize a situation in which he would approve the elimination of a foreign head of state. Turner replied quickly but tersely, "Not in peacetime."

On the issue of illegal activities, Turner said: "I would resign if put into a position of carrying out an immoral or illegal action." He added that after resigning he would seek a hearing before the committee.

He said he would be amenable to helping to draft legislation for the Congress to provide such criminal penalties.



Adm. Stansfield Turner, nominated to head CIA, testifies before Senate Intelligence Committee. (AP photo)